

FECN11 CWIS 171800

THIRTY DAY FORECAST FOR THE GREAT LAKES FOR MID-MARCH MID-APRIL
ISSUED BY THE NORTH AMERICAN ICE SERVICE ON 17 MARCH 2006.
THE NEXT SCHEDULED BULLETIN WILL BE ISSUED ON 5 APRIL 2006.

Lake Superior

Temperatures were below normal during the first two weeks of March. The current ice situation is still about three weeks earlier than normal in terms of break-up.

Forecast ice conditions from March 17th to 31st.

Temperatures will average below normal for the last half of March.

1. Thunder Bay – The consolidated ice in most of the bay will continue to fracture. The fractured ice will drift out of the bay and melt. By the end of the month most of the ice in the bay will be fractured except the north-eastern part of the bay where the consolidated ice will remain. The fractured medium lake ice will remain in the bay or drift out to the approach to the bay.
2. Nipigon and Black Bays – Consolidated thick and medium thick lake ice.
3. From Grand Marais to the entrance to Nipigon Bay – Only a few isolated bands of thin lake ice will be present during the third week of March. By the end of the month mainly open water conditions will prevail except for a few patches of fractured medium lake ice in the approaches to Thunder Bay
4. From Grand Marais to Duluth – Open water conditions will prevail.
5. Southern Lake Superior including the Keweenaw Peninsula – The thin and medium lake ice will continue to melt. By the end of the month mostly open water conditions will prevail except around the Apostle Island where some patches of rotten consolidated medium lake ice will remain.
6. Whitefish Bay – The consolidated ice in the eastern portion of the bay will begin to fracture during the last week of March. The mobile ice in the rest of the bay will deteriorate leaving patches of thin and medium lake ice in the eastern and southern reaches of the bay by the end of the month. The rest of the bay will be open water.
7. From Whitefish Bay northwards to Michipicoten Bay and westward to Nipigon Bay – Mainly open water.
8. Elsewhere in Lake Superior – Open water to ice free.

Forecast ice conditions from April 1st to 15th.

Temperatures will average near to below normal for the first two weeks of April.

1. Thunder Bay – The consolidated medium lake ice in the northeastern part of the bay will fracture during the first week of April. By the middle of the month mainly open water conditions will prevail with some isolated patches of rotten medium lake ice in the bay.
2. Nipigon and Black Bays – Consolidated thick lake ice will begin to fracture.
3. From Grand Marais to the entrance to Nipigon Bay – Open water.
4. From Grand Marais to Duluth – Open water to ice free.
5. Southern Lake Superior including the Keweenaw Peninsula – The consolidated medium lake ice around the Apostle Island will fracture and melt during the first week of April. By the middle of the month mainly open water conditions will prevail.

6. Whitefish Bay – The thin and medium lake ice in the eastern and southern reaches of the bay will melt during the period. By the middle of the month mainly open water conditions will prevail.
7. From Whitefish Bay northwards to Michipicoten Bay and westward to Nipigon Bay – Open water to ice free.
8. Elsewhere in Lake Superior – Ice free.

Lake Michigan

Temperatures were above normal over the entire region. The current ice situation is about two to three weeks earlier than normal in terms of break-up.

Forecast ice conditions from March 17th to 31st.

Temperatures will average below normal for the last two weeks of the March.

1. Green Bay – The strong winds has fractured the consolidated ice in the southern part of Green Bay. The central and northern part of the bay has become mainly open water. During the period the ice in the southern part of the bay will continue to decrease in extent so that by the end of the month open water leads will prevail along the south-western shore with some medium and thick lake ice in the rest of the southern part of the bay. The central and northern portion of the bay will be open water. No significant change to the consolidated ice of Little and Big Bay de Noc will occur during the last half of March.
2. Northeastern Lake Michigan – Most of the ice in this region has been destroyed or melted. Only a few areas of medium lake ice prevail along near and in the Straits of Mackinaw. This ice will continue to deteriorate during the period.
3. Elsewhere in Lake Michigan – Open water becoming ice free by the end of the month.

Forecast ice conditions from April 1st to 15th.

Temperatures will average near to below normal for the last half of March.

1. Green Bay – Mainly open water conditions will develop during the first week of April in Green Bay. The consolidated ice in the Little and Big Bay de Noc will fracture in the first week of April so that by the middle of April mainly open water will prevail everywhere.
2. Northern Lake Michigan – During the first week of April mainly open water conditions will prevail.
3. Elsewhere in Lake Michigan – Ice free.

Lake Huron and Georgian Bay

Temperatures were above normal during the first two weeks of March. The current ice situation is two to three weeks earlier than normal in terms of break-up.

Forecast ice conditions from March 17th to 31st.

Temperatures will average below normal over the second half of March.

1. North Channel – The consolidated ice has begun to fracture in the western and central sections of the channel. The remainder of the consolidated medium and thick lake ice will continue to slowly show signs of fracture.
2. St Mary's River – Consolidated thick lake ice in the river will begin to fracture during the last week of March.
3. South of Manitoulin Island westward to North-western Lake Huron - Mainly open water except for some ice drifting southward from the North Channel.
4. North-western Lake Huron near the Straits of Mackinaw – Mainly open water except for some patches of consolidated medium lake ice along the shore and in the Straits of Mackinaw. The consolidated ice along the shore north of the Straits of Mackinaw will fracture during the last week of March.
5. From north-western Lake Huron to Saginaw Bay – Mainly open water with some bands of medium lake ice along the shore. By the last week of March mainly open water conditions will prevail everywhere.
6. Saginaw Bay – Mainly open water except for a band of medium lake ice in the eastern part of the bay. This ice will continue to melt slowly during the period. By the end of the month only a few patches of medium lake ice will remain in the eastern part of the bay.
7. The southern and eastern shore of Lake Huron – Narrow bands of thin and medium lake ice will prevail along the eastern shore during the third week of March however by the end of the month mainly open water conditions will cover the areas except for a few isolated patches of ice.
8. Georgian Bay – The consolidated ice along the north-eastern shore will remain. Some fracturing will occur by the end of the month.
9. Elsewhere in Lake Huron and Georgian Bay – Open water along the shore of the lake and the southwestern part of Georgian Bay with ice free in the central part of the lake.

Forecast ice conditions from April 1st to 15th.

Temperatures will average near to below normal for the first two weeks of April.

1. North Channel – Signs of fractures will continue to manifest themselves in the consolidated ice in the eastern and western portion of the bay during the first week of April. By the middle of the month all of the consolidated ice will be fractured with open water areas developing in the northern portion of the channel.
2. St Mary's River – All of the consolidated ice will be fractured during the first week of April. Open water sections will develop shortly after.
3. South of Manitoulin Island westward to North-western Lake Huron – Mainly open water except for some ice drifting southward from the North Channel.
4. North-western Lake Huron near the Straits of Mackinaw – Mainly open water will develop by the end of the first week of April.
5. From north-western Lake Huron to Saginaw Bay – Mainly open water.
6. Saginaw Bay – Mainly open water will develop everywhere early in the first week of April.
7. The southern and eastern shore of Lake Huron – Mainly open water.
8. Georgian Bay – The consolidated ice along the northeast shore will continue to fracture. By the middle of April mainly open water will prevail.
9. Elsewhere in Lake Huron and Georgian Bay – Open water to ice free.

Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair

Temperatures were above normal during the first two weeks of March. The current ice situation is three weeks earlier than normal in terms of break-up.

Forecast ice conditions from March 17th to 31st.

Temperatures will average below normal for the last half of March.

1. Lake St Clair – Mainly open water.
2. Western Basin – Open water.
3. The rest of Lake Erie – A narrow band of medium ice along the extreme eastern part of the lake will melt during the third week of March. By the end of the month the lake will be mostly open water with ice free conditions in the central part of the lake.

Forecast ice conditions from April 1st to 15th.

Temperatures will average near or below normal for the first two weeks of April.

1. Lake St Clair – Ice free
2. Western Basin – Ice free.
3. The rest of Lake Erie – Open water with ice free conditions developing by the second week of April.

Lake Ontario

Temperatures were above normal during the first half of March. The current ice situation is about two weeks earlier than normal in terms of break-up.

Forecast ice conditions from March 17th to 31st.

Temperatures will be below normal for the last two weeks of March.

1. Northeastern Lake Ontario – The consolidated ice in the smaller bays will fracture during the third week so that during the last week of March all of the ice will have melted leaving mainly open water conditions in the area.
2. Bay of Quinte – The consolidated medium lake ice has started to fracture. By the end of the month mostly open water conditions will prevail except for a few isolated strip of ice.
3. St Lawrence River – The consolidated thin and new lake ice with some medium lake ice will continue to fracture so that by the end of the month mainly open water conditions will prevail with only a few isolated patch of consolidated ice.
4. Elsewhere in Lake Ontario – Mainly open water along the shore with ice free conditions in the central part of the lake.

Forecast ice conditions from April 1st to 15th.

Temperatures will average near to below normal for the first part of April.

1. Northeastern Lake Ontario – Open water.
2. Bay of Quinte – Mainly open water.
3. St Lawrence River – Mainly open water.
4. Elsewhere in Lake Ontario – Mainly open water to ice free.

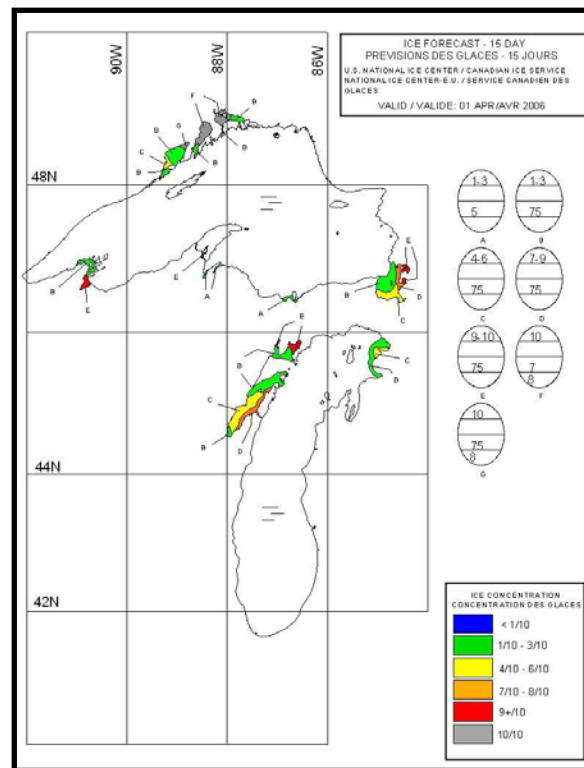


Figure 1: Ice forecast, Western Great Lakes – 1 April 2006.

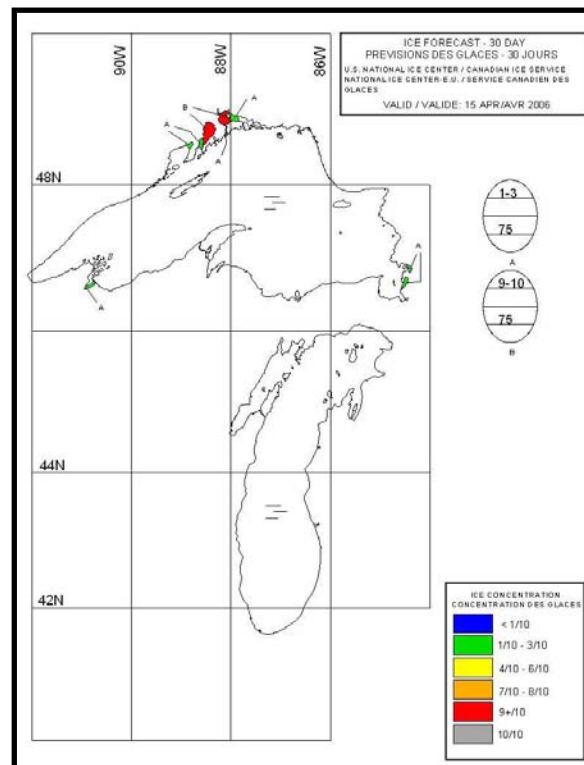


Figure 2: Ice forecast, Western Great Lakes – 15 April 2006.

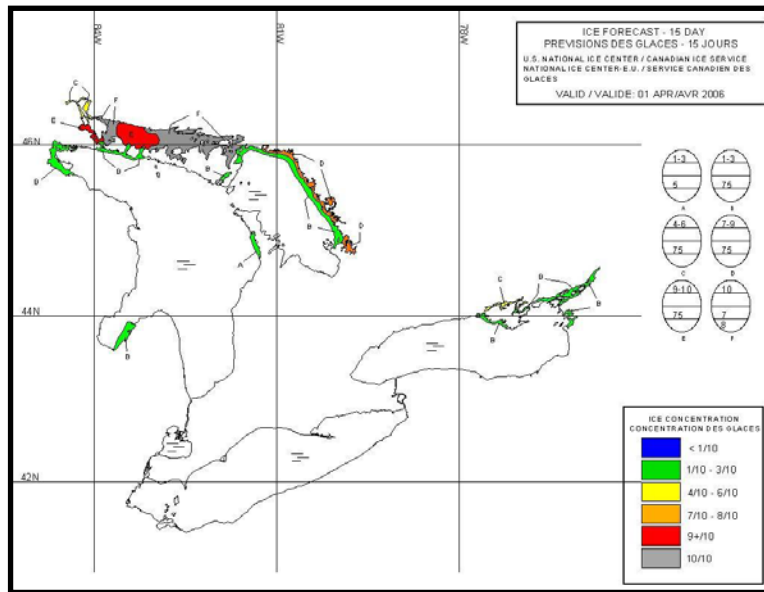


Figure 3: Ice forecast, Eastern Great Lakes – 1 April 2006.

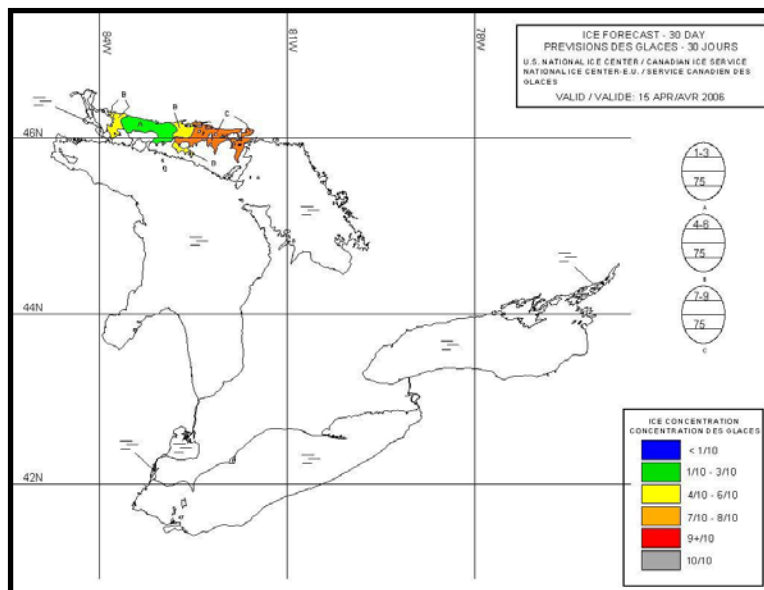


Figure 4: Ice forecast, Eastern Great Lakes – 15 April 2006.

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